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THE NEWSPAPER is an institution developed by modern civilization to present the news of the day, to foster commerce and industry, to inform and lead public opinion, and to furnish that check upon government which no constitution has ever been able to provide.

—THE TRIBUNE CREDO

AMIALE KREMLIN AND UNAMIALE VIET NAM

Willard Edwards of our Washington Bureau reported in the Sunday TRIBUNE some estimates by the Central Intelligence Agency on the state of the world. The CIA took a rosy view of what it appraised as growing soviet amiability, but an almost despairing view of the prospects of defeating the Communists in South Viet Nam.

When the Johnson administration learned that THE TRIBUNE had the story, it released the text of the 47-page document. The release was accompanied by a denial that the report represents either government or CIA policy.

Commenting on these developments, the New York Herald Tribune said, "Generalizing a leak to one paper by making it available to all may help defuse domestic political repercussions to a potentially damaging evaluation." The Herald Tribune point was that the administration had been talking optimistically about Viet Nam and had rejected President de Gaulle's proposal that the country be neutralized. It has been argued that neutralization would only be preliminary to surrendering Viet Nam to the Communists; yet the CIA evaluation spoke of the "chance . . . for some kind of negotiated settlement based upon neutralization."

The New York Times remarked, "The text of this document was released, after a leak, as a means of denying that it represents administration policy." But the

Times cited its Washington correspondent as stating that the paper reflects a view "widely held in the government and the subject of recurrent official discussion."

The familiar administration stand-by of "managed news" is with us again. President Johnson and leading figures of his administration keep talking about "winning" the war, while the CIA, reporting to the national security council headed by President Johnson, says that there is "serious doubt that victory can be won" and that the best hope is that "a prolonged stalemate" might be achieved.

So the administration tells the people one thing while its secret intelligence estimates tell a story quite the opposite. We should think a campaign issue would be whether this administration can be trusted at all.

Beyond that, the CIA paper discloses that the Russia-is-mellowing theory is still going strong in the think factories of the administration's inner circle. Dismissing Khrushchev's repeated threats as mere oratory, the CIA asserts—on what authority it does not say—that he has made a decision to negotiate better relations with the United States.

"Over the long run," the report says, "we continue to believe that the gradual changes taking place in the U. S. S. R. will diminish its hostility to the west and the vigor of its revolutionary effort outside the communist world. . . . This process of change . . . is probably irreversible."

Here again we have the outlook enunciated more than two years ago by Walt W. Rostow, the state department policy planner, that Russia had abandoned its goal of world conquest and that it could find areas of "overlapping interest" with us. Formulas of "convergence" and "interdependence" with the Soviet Union have been a constant theme of spokesmen of the Kennedy-Johnson administration, and Sen. Fulbright, chairman of the foreign relations committee, is only one of the many oracles repeating them.

We believe that it is idiotic to risk the security of the United States on unproved assumptions and casual hunches. We believe that the safe course is that taken in the Republican platform—that "communism is the enemy of this nation in every sense until it can prove that its enmity has been abandoned."